

# News from Copenhagen

## Co-operation between OSCE and NATO assemblies discussed



Secretaries General Spencer Oliver and David Hobbs, with senior staff, discuss enhanced co-operation between the OSCE PA and the NATO PA.

In meetings at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen on 25 March, the senior staff of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly explored various approaches for improving and streamlining the co-operation between the two assemblies.

The Secretary General of the NATO PA, David Hobbs, accompanied by the NATO PA Deputy Secretaries General Ruxandra Popa and Christine Heffinck, met with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretaries General Gustavo Pallares and Tina Schoen to discuss matters of common interest including the organization of the assemblies' meetings, sessions and seminars.

The value of enhanced co-ordination was discussed in matters such as the scheduling of meetings and deployment of election observation missions. The staff shared tips on practical organizational aspects including the effective use of computer databases, document distribution and communicating with delegations. They also discussed the sharing of information and good practices between the staffs of the two secretariats, which has already been fruitful.

Overall communication strategy was also discussed, particularly regarding the use of video, social media and the challenges of promoting the assemblies' activities in the mass media.

"I'm very glad to see our two bodies, which have so much in common in terms of purpose, organization and history, come together to compare notes and ensure the best use of our resources," said Oliver. "The NATO PA and the OSCE PA represent more than a billion people across the Northern Hemisphere and it is important that we work efficiently and effectively in promoting our common goals."

Monday's meeting follows a visit to the International Secretariat last month by Secretary General Hobbs and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Wojciech Sawicki, in which the leaders discussed ways they could intensify co-operation. Sawicki has invited both Oliver and Hobbs to a meeting in June at PACE's headquarters in Strasbourg as a follow-up to the Copenhagen meeting. Both NATO PA and PACE have official observer status at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.



David Hobbs and Deputy Secretaries General Christine Heffinck and Ruxandra Popa meet OSCE PA Research Fellows.

### Bureau to meet in Copenhagen

The Assembly's Bureau, consisting of the President, the Treasurer, the Vice-Presidents and Committee Officers, is scheduled to meet in Copenhagen on 15 April. Several Special Representatives will also participate in the meeting.

The OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE will meet in Copenhagen on 14 April, and Committee Chair Francois-Xavier de Donnea will report to the Bureau the following day.

The Chair of the PA's Rules Committee Joao Soares will also report to the Bureau on his committee's recent work and proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure.